
Title: Symptoms (part 2)

Author: Maelwyn Ab'Arawn

"I do not know." The ancient Meer crouched down and put his hand to the ground. "The magic has infested the land here and nature is changed. Anything could happen. I can feel the decay below us and it will continue to grow in some way until it is stopped."

"We should get back to my laboratory." Clainin said reaching for his spellbook. "I'll be happy to assist you with preparing the cure."

"Cure?" Adranath asked between coughs.

Before Clainin could speak again, a squishing sound came from the trees. The party turned to witness a huge mass crawling its way towards them. Twisted gaping mouths and misplaced eyes covered the outside of the creature appeared, only to sink back into the depths of the fleshy mass and reappear in a new place. Half of a deer corpse stuck awkwardly out of the side of the mound; the corpse was quickly pulled inside it with a sickening wet crunch. The misshapen mouths on the creature spit a few bloodied bones out as it progressed. Dawn readied her sword but at the sight of the foul fiend she was fully

prepared to retreat if need be. "What is this horrid creature?"

"Another product of the decay! It is now affecting flesh. I expect that used to be a normal forest creature of some kind that became infected and metamorphosed." The Watcher turned to Clainin as he repressed his coughing. "I believe now we should make our exit."

Clainin had already started casting the moongate back to Britain before Adranath had finished speaking. A short moment later the four had passed through the portal and it vanished quietly as the slimy creature continued to move towards the city.